



**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Attorney Docket No. 040679/1420**

Applicant: Akira KONDOU et al.  
Title: STEERING SHAFT FOR ENERGY ABSORBING STEERING  
COLUMN AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF  
Application. No.: 10/023,795  
Filing Date: December 21, 2001  
Examiner: Fleming, Faye M.  
Art Unit: 3616

**RECEIVED**

**JUN 10 2004**

**GROUP 3600**

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated January 6, 2004, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Applicant has enclosed with this amendment a Petition for Extension of Time to make this response timely.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: